

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and further and favorable consideration of the subject application are respectfully requested and such action is earnestly solicited.

As correctly stated in the Official Action, claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-21 are subject to a restriction requirement.

By the present amendment, claims 1-21 have been canceled, in favor of adding new claims 22-45. Support for these claims can be found, at least, as follows:

Claim	Support	Claim	Support
22	Claims 1, 2, and 10	34	Specification pg. 16, ll. 4-8
23	Specification pg. 16, ll. 4-8	35	Claim 3
24	Specification pg. 16, ll. 4-8	36	Claim 4
25	Claim 11	37	Claim 5
26	Claims 12	38	Claim 6
27	Claim 13	39	Claim 7
28	Claim 14	40	Claim 8
29	Claim 15	41	Claim 9
30	Claim 16	42	Claims 1, 2, 10, and 18
31	Claim 17	43	Claim 19
32	Claims 1, 2, and 10	44	Claim 20
33	Specification pg. 16, ll. 4-8	45	Claim 21

No new matter has been added.

Response to Restriction Requirement

The Examiner indicates that Claim 1-21 are subject to restriction to one of the following groups:

Group I, claims 1-9 drawn to a cellulose fiber;

Group II, claims 10-17, drawn to a method of producing cellulose pulp; and

Group III, claims 18-21, drawn to a method of making paper.

Applicants submit that the newly presented claims correspond roughly in this manner:

Group I, new claims 32-41;

Group II, new claims 22-31; and

Group III, new claims 42-45.

Applicants elect, albeit with traverse, the claims of Group II, new claims 22-31, for examination.

According to M.P.E.P. § 803, a restriction requirement between patentably distinct inventions is proper only when there is a serious burden on the examiner to examine all of the claims in a single application; this is true even when appropriate reasons exist for restriction requirement. Applicants respectfully submit that the search needed to examine all of the claims would necessarily and significantly overlap and therefore would not impose a serious burden on the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 32-41 of Group I are linked to the claims of Group II as product by process claims. Accordingly, the search necessary to examine claims 32-41 must encompass that required for Group II. Thus, no burden exists

for the Examiner to examine the claims of Group I along with Group II. Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the claims of Group I with the claims of Group II.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of claims 22-41 and 42-45 are capable of being used together. Method claims 42-45 concern a method of producing a paper or nonwoven which is further processed into a paper, tissue, or nonwoven product. Claims 42-45 comprise as a step, the same oxidation described in claim 22. Thus, the subject matter of claims 22-41 and of 42-45 are capable of being used together in contrast to the Examiner's remarks in the Official Action. In fact, method claim 42 encompasses the subject matter of claim 22.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed methods and products have the same modes of operation, the same functions, and the same effect, contrary to the Examiner's position. The object of the presently claimed invention involves providing tissue or nonwoven products having *inter alia* improved wet and dry strength properties, especially wet strength properties. This can be achieved via the presently claimed invention by selectively oxidizing the C(6) hydroxy groups of cellulosic glucose units to the corresponding carboxy and aldehyde groups. The main effect achieved (*i.e.*, improved dry and wet strength) and related effects (*e.g.*, no chain degradation and less impurities) are of the greatest importance when producing paper from the oxidized cellulosic material. Without forming paper handsheets or tissue paper samples from the oxidized cellulose fiber, it is not possible to measure the effect of an improved wet strength. Therefore, the claim functions and effects are the same, independently of the claim category (*i.e.*, cellulose fiber, paper, method for producing cellulose fiber, paper manufacturing method,

etc.). Correspondingly, the claims objected to are not only linked by the same features, which are recited in the claims, but also in terms of the technical effects and functions achieved. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claims 42-45 corresponding to Group III be rejoined with claims 22-41 of Groups I and II.

Applicants respectfully submit that it would not be an undue burden on the Examiner to examine all of claims 22-45 at the present time. At the very least, Applicants request joinder of new claims 22-31 with claims 32-41.

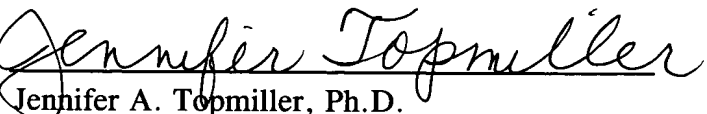
Conclusions

From the foregoing, examination of the subject application on the merits is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment of the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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